



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Thicket  
National Preserve

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## Big Thicket National Preserve

## News Release

Release Date: October 1, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
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### **87% of Big Thicket National Preserve Now Open To The Public**

Seven additional units of Big Thicket National Preserve reopened to the public on Wednesday, October 1. All of the designated hunting units are now open. Hunters are reminded that they can only hunt in areas for which they have a permit. To provide the public with opportunities for a respite from the stress of Hurricane Ike, units will continue to be opened on an individual basis. Units opened on Wednesday are:

- Big Sandy Creek Unit
- Big Sandy Creek Corridor Unit
- Menard Creek Corridor Unit
- Beech Creek Unit
- Jack Gore Baygall/Neches Bottom Unit
- Upper Neches Unit
- Lower Neches Unit

These are in addition to the following units, which were opened previously:

- Village Creek Corridor Unit
- Beaumont Unit
- Hickory Creek Savannah Unit
- Lance Rosier Unit
- Preserve Visitor Center (open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.)

The units now open account for 87% of the Preserve's total acreage. The Turkey Creek Unit is expected to be open within the next 7 days. All other units remain closed until further notice.

The public is advised to use caution on roads and in the Preserve as numerous hazards such as fallen timber, leaning trees, and debris may still exist. These hazardous conditions extend to traveling in the Preserve on foot. Leaning and hanging trees as well as unstable footing can be dangerous to persons walking in the woods. There is also an elevated risk of wildfires given the amount of downed trees and other flammable debris present in the woods. Those visitors using the Village Creek Corridor Unit are reminded that hazards still exist, such as high water, swift currents, submerged debris, and changing water levels. Use caution whenever using the water, especially after major weather events such as Hurricane Ike.

The Preserve will issue updated information as the conditions of roads and trails change. Specific questions concerning the condition of roads and trails should be directed to (409) 951-6701.

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